

CTTAB 2003Minutes

July 8, 2003

Meeting Minutes

**City of Seattle, Board Room, 27th Floor
Key Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104**

Board Members

Rhonda Allison

Jason Bennett

Rob Jacobs

Damien Koemens

Mike Mullarkey

Robin Oppenheimer

Ann Robinson

Jeff Techico

Harriet Wasserman\

Excused

Michael Daum

Mike Donlin

Shannon Frisbie

Melinda Partin

Justin Saint Clair

Brad Stilwell

Absent

Appah Auta

Guests:

Jerry Whiting

Matt Westerfeldt

Peter Yorke

Staff

David Keyes

Jill Novik

Tony Perez

1. Introduction of new members, Announcements, Agenda Approval; Review of Minutes:

David invited CTTAB to a celebration on July 19 at 11:00 at 21st and Union to honor students who completed ECMA's Computer Technology Training of the Trainers course. This training was funded by City's Technology Matching Fund (TMF). The Mayor will attend and there will be refreshments and entertainment.

The agenda was amended to permit the presentation before committee reports; minutes were approved as written.

2. Presentation: Wi-Fi: Matt Westerfeldt and Peter Yorke

Westerfeldt and Yorke discussed the history of Wi-Fi and some of the technical components: the original concept was to create free network access over a local loop which will bypass the Internet. Although individual nodes in the network could serve as gateways to the Internet, its primary function is for local communications. The local group is in touch with people from other cities and countries. There are lots of applications, such as VoIP, streaming, etc., but the system is not too secure. The speed of connection can be extremely fast, depending on the underlying network. The range varies with sightlines, but the 802.11b range is several hundred feet.

In Seattle, there is free access at Thomas and Tashkent parks, at SPU, and at a few businesses. Starbucks, among other places, charges for Wi-Fi access.

On August 30 at Field Park, there will be a community tour and outreach event to promote Wi-Fi. Information is available about the event and Wi-Fi at seattlewireless.net.

3. Committee Reports

Community Technology: Rhonda The CTCNet conference will be held in Seattle next week. David has been reelected to the Board.

The CTO listing will be out soon.

The advertisement for the PSACT executive director is out.

The next committee meeting will be July 22 at 5 p.m. at University Tower Tully's.

Governance: Jeff It was decided to cancel the August meeting unless it is determined that there is pressing business prior to the meeting. Board members are requested to keep the date open.

The Board's annual retreat, in lieu of a regular meeting, will be held on September 4 from 1-8 p.m. Anyone with suggestions for the retreat should get them to Jeff by August 12. Rhonda will get information on past retreats to Damien for scanning and distribution to CTTAB. Rhonda will also ask Justin if he wants to come to the retreat, in particular so that CTTAB can recognize his service to the Board.

Rob suggested that deadlines be given for CTTAB responses/products.

4. Vote on Proposed Rules

Jeff discussed the proposed changes, which were minor. *Action: the latest version of the rules was approved unanimously.*

5. Cable Office: Tony

Paul Janis, an experienced attorney and cable regulator, has been hired to replace Lynne Masters and will start on August 4.

The franchising subcommittee should start meeting. The Committee will give feedback on the elements and timing of the plan; questions for the survey (by the end of the year); and identifying key people to talk to. It is expected that the committee will meet approximately every two weeks. Because this subcommittee will potentially discuss the City's policies and intent and the cable companies' proprietary information, the proceedings of the committee are confidential.

Cometa, a wireless Internet provider, is partnering with AT&T Wireless and Intel to create 2000 hotspots throughout the country. They have approached the City, as they are interested in locating 300 hotspots in Seattle before September 25 for a free wireless day. Tony noted that the City has no jurisdiction over Wi-Fi, but that Cometa would like help with permitting, access to rooftops, utility poles, etc.

Mike Mullarkey noted the issue of giving sites to commercial vendors and that the city should also reserve space for free access groups, such as Seattle Wireless. There is the concern that solely supporting commercial activity may limit creativity and commitment to the community.

The Cable Office will be meeting with Comcast to review compliance with the City's privacy portion of the Cable Customer Bill of Rights.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.